

Message Text

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60

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-10

FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /131 W
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R 061932Z JUN 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 142

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MTN GENEVA 4270

PASS STR

EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT

SUBJ: MTN: TARIFFS GROUP - BASE RATES/BASE DATE

REF: MTN GENEVA 3646

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, U.S. AND EC AGREED BEFORE LAST TARIFFS GROUP MEETING TO HOLD TO POSITIONS THAT TARIFF CUTTS ON UNBOUND ITEMS SHOULD BE MADE ON EFFECTIVELY APPLIED RATES, NOT (USUALLY HIGHER) LEGAL RATES WHILE JAPAN, CANADA AND AUSTRALIA CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN POSITION THAT LEGAL RATES SHOULD BE USED FOR UNBOUND ITEMS. JAPAN (MIZOGUCHI) PRIVATELY INDICATED TO U.S. THAT WE HAVE TRADE INTEREST IN ONLY ABOUT 60 UNBOUND JAPANESE ITEMS AND RELUCTANTLY OFFERED TO PROVIDE DETAILED DATA ON THIS QUESTION.

2. AS WE EXPECTED, JAPAN HAS NOW WAFFLED ON THIS OFFER AND IS NOW ONLY WILLING TO STATE THAT ACCORDING TO ONE ESTIMATE IT HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MADE SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF NUMBER OF UNBOUND TARIFF LINE ITEMS

IN THE JAPANESE TARIFF SCHEDULES FOR 1974 (BTN'S 1-99), IT HAS TEMPORARILY INCREASED RATES ON 39 OF THEM AND TEMPORARILY REDUCED RATES ON 136 OF THEM. EXCLUDING PETROLEUM ITEMS, RATES ON 128 ITEMS WERE REDUCED (VALUED AT MORE THAN 2.3 BILLION DOLLARS) AND RATES ON 30 ITEMS WERE INCREASED (VALUED AT 340 MILLION DOLLARS). OF THE 128 NONPETROLEUM ITEMS WHICH WERE REDUCED, 66 WERE IN BTN CHAPTERS 1-24 AND 62 WERE IN BTN CHAPTERS 25-99. OF THE 30 NON-PETROLEUM ITEMS WHICH WERE INCREASED, 22 WERE IN BTN CHAPTERS 1-24 AND 8 IN CHAPTERS 25-99.

3. SINCE WE DO NOT YET HAVE THE DATA OR THE RESOURCES TO IDENTIFY THESE ITEMS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON ANALYSIS OF QUESTION USING BASE DATE OF 1 JANUARY 1974 TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE NEXT TARIFFS GROUP MEETING JULY 7. WE SUGGEST FOCUS OF ANALYSIS BE U.S. TRADE INTEREST IN UNBOUND ITEMS WHERE RATES DIFFER FROM LEGAL RATES (BOTH INCREASES AND DECREASES) AND RELATIONSHIP VIS-A-VIS OTHER SUPPLIERS.

4. WE HAVE ALSO ASKED CANADIAN MTN DELEGATION FOR INFORMATION ON NUMBER OF ITEMS AND TRADE VALUES WHICH ARE RELEVANT TO PROPOSED BASE DATE OF 1 JANUARY 1974 FOR UNBOUND ITEMS. CANADIANS STATE THEY HAVE NO USEFUL INFORMATION ON QUESTION AND ARE AWAITING APPLIED RATE TAPES FROM STATISTICS CANADA. WE ASK THAT WASHINGTON ALSO COMPLETE SIMILAR ANALYSIS OF CANADIAN TARIFF SCHEDULE BY JULY 7.MCNAMARA

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